

VENTURA COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, California

MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 1984

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mary Baird
Alicia Ramirez-Brewer
Virginia Connell
Dorothy Engel
Tila Estrada
Louise Grethel
Lupe Gonsalves
Brook Hubbell
Mary Jane Johns
Jo Anne Le Fils-Moore
Sandra Smith Ryder
Erin Healy Sheffield
Raymond Clayton

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Lauren Anderson
Ida Richardson

The meeting was held at the Camarillo Public Library and was called to order by Co-Chair Jo Anne Le Fils-Moore at 9:05 a.m.

I. Introduction of New Commissioners

The Commission welcomed two new commissioners, Louise Grethel and Raymond Clayton. Ms. Grethel and Mr. Clayton are both appointees of Supervisor Ed Jones, District 2.

Ms. Grethel is a homemaker and community volunteer. She is the current Chair of the Thousand Oaks Arts Commission and is active in the American Association of University Women, Thousand Oaks Branch, serving now as the Program Vice President.

Mr. Clayton is an attorney in private practice in Thousand Oaks. In his practice he deals primarily with cases involving public law, business and corporation law. He began his 23 year law career as a public attorney, an assistant District Attorney, in another county in California.

The Commissioners were introduced and guests welcomed. Guests attending the meeting were:

Rochelle Elias, Ventura County Child Care Resource and Referral
Bonnie Warrington, Commission on Human Concerns
Berenice Ostergren, Industrial nurse
Lee Anderson, Businesswoman
Suzanne Prieto, Moorpark Planning Commission
Pat Ellison, College District Committee on the Status of Women
Judy Capko, Businesswoman

I. (cont'd)

Virginia Aguirre, City of Ventura, Personnel Representative
Rae D. Walton, College District Committee on Status of Women
Judith Norcross, Independent Living Resource Center

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of November 12, 1983 and December 3, 1983 were approved as submitted.

III. Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary was absent. No report was submitted.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Ginny Connell reported that as of January 6, 1984, 54% of the fiscal year had elapsed with 40% of the budget spent.

Ginny will meet on January 25, 1984 with Fiscal Division representatives to discuss the budget for next year.

V. Committee Reports

A. Child Care Committee - Dot Engel

It was moved by Dot Engel and seconded by Brook Hubbell that the KISS brochure be made available to government agencies at no charge, and that others may buy copies of the brochure at the following rates: single copy - \$1.50; 10-49 copies - 10% discount; 50 or more copies - 20% discount. The motion passed.

Ginny Connell moved and Jane Johns seconded that copies of the Proceedings of the Working Parents Symposium be sent free to those who attended the Symposium and that others may buy copies at a price to be determined when the printing and mailing costs are known. The motion carried.

Money from the KISS brochure will go to the Commission. Money from the Proceedings will go to the County.

The County Employees' Needs Assessment on Child Care is scheduled to be presented by CAO Senior Administrative Analyst Clinton Tatum to county managers on Feb. 1. and will be distributed following that meeting.

Mr. Tatum is making arrangements for data processing of the information collected through the survey.

V. Committee Reports (cont'd)

B. Communications

The communications report was the recently published issue of the newsletter.

The next issue will be a February-March printing. Articles and information for inclusion are requested from commissioners and other interested parties. Please include dates for scheduled events for the calendar section. Submit articles to Lauren Anderson, Ginny Connell or Sandy Ryder through the Commission office.

C. Banquet Committee

Lupe Gonsalves reported that the banquet was a success. As acting treasurer of the Friends of the Commission Erin Sheffield reported that additional receipts are needed to complete the financial report on the banquet and that there are not sufficient funds in the Friends account to cover all banquet expenses. Approximately \$400 needs to be raised by the Friends of the Commission to cover the remaining bills.

Erin Sheffield, Sandy Ryder, Alicia Ramirez-Brewer and Rochelle Elias, Child Care Resource & Referral representative, will serve as a committee to plan a fundraiser for that purpose.

Ginny Connell reported that a letter had been sent to those who submitted nominations for the 1983 awards thanking them for those nominations and asking them to participate in the 1984 nominations later this year.

D. Women's History Week Task Force

The main point of this report by Ginny Connell was to remind everyone of the Women's History Workshop scheduled for Friday, Jan. 27 and Saturday, Jan. 28 at the School Conference Facility, Camarillo airport. Co-sponsored by Cal Lutheran College and the Title IX Assistance Office of the State Department of Education, this workshop will be presented by Molly MacGregor and Bette Morgan, both co-founders of the National Women's History Week project. The workshop may be taken for 1 hour credit.

The workshop will be followed by a reception for presenters and participants, hosted by the Ventura County Women's Equity Coalition.

Direct response from contact teachers regarding NWHW classroom activities has been slower than hoped for; therefore, no large scale effort has yet been made to recruit community resource women.

V. Committee Reports (cont'd)

It is hoped that the Women's History Workshop will generate more interest among the teachers who attend and that more teachers will contact the Commission for information on suggested activities including having community resource women make presentations to classes.

Ginny Connell and Martha Baskerville will make a presentation to the Curriculum Council regarding NWHW on Wednesday, Jan. 25th.

E. Legislative Analysis

A schedule of hearings by legislative committees in Sacramento was posted for those attending the meeting. There was no recommendation for legislative action.

Ginny Connell spoke on the issue of the current Civil Rights Commission. She asked that everyone be aware of the recent action of the newly constituted Commission, which was to express an anti-affirmative action position. The Civil Rights Commission also announced that they will review the past positions of the former Commission with the possibility of reversing them. The Civil Rights Commission has acted as the nation's conscience since its beginning. This reversal of position regarding affirmative action for women and minorities is a discouraging reality.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Needs and Services Assessment

The Commission on Human Concerns has agreed officially to work jointly with this Commission to perform the county-wide needs and services assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to determine just what services are available to the women in Ventura County, the effectiveness of those services, what needs are going unnoticed or unmet by public and private agencies. Once the assessment is complete the information will serve as the basis for recommending possible actions/projects for this Commission and for public and private service providers.

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer will convene a meeting of the committee to determine the structure and process of the assessment. Serving on that committee, in

VI. Unfinished Business (cont'd)

addition to Dr. Ramirez-Brewer, will be commissioners Ginny Connell, Tila Estrada, Mary Jane Johns; and Bonnie Warrington and Lee Riggan from the Commission on Human Concerns.

B. Monitoring of Presley Funds - This portion of the agenda was chaired by Erin Sheffield.

Commissioners Mary Jane Johns, Louise Grethel and Erin Sheffield met with Clint Tatum, Senior Administrative Analyst, James Isom, Director of PSSA, and Robert Hirtensteiner, Assistant CAO, to discuss how the Commission for Women might be involved in monitoring the allocation process and use of Presley funds, money directed to be used to aid battered women.

Erin Sheffield reported that the process would involve the following:

- . monthly agency reports from Presley Funds recipients to be reviewed.
- . field visits to service providers
- . participation in the Request For Proposal (RFP) process from Public Social Services Agency (PSSA)
- . proposal review
- . committee decision on fund allocation

All of the above would be in conjunction with the county committee which oversees Presley Funds currently.

Ginny Connell moved and Tila Estrada seconded that the Commission for Women become involved in the above mentioned process. Motion carried. Commissioners Jo Anne Moore and Sandy Ryder asked that the minutes show that they abstained from voting.

Louise Grethel and Mary Jane Johns will be the Commission representatives on the Presley fund committee.

C. Discussion of December Tri-County Commission Meeting

There was complete agreement that the December meeting with the Santa Barbara Commission for Women and the San Luis Obispo Commission on the Status of Women was interesting, informative and worthwhile. It was also agreed that this Commission would like to institute and maintain a closer relationship with the other counties' commissions for the purpose of sharing information on projects and plans.

General concern was expressed about expending too much time and energy in putting together a tri-county

VI. Unfinished Business (cont'd)

workshop this spring. Each commissioner will be involved in varying degrees in the needs assessment project. The door was left open for future joint meetings.

It was during this discussion that several guests expressed an interest in learning how they might be valuable to the Commission and in learning what the Commission would like as a response to them from the general community.

Commissioners, please give this some thought and plan on a discussion of the community's role at the next monthly meeting.

One suggestion to involve the community more with the Commission was to hold the monthly meetings in the different cities. Alicia Ramirez-Brewer moved, Dot Engel seconded and the motion carried to hold our monthly meetings in varying locations. A schedule of meeting dates and locations will be developed and publicized.

D. Friends of the Commission

Commissioners expressed two different philosophies with regard to the function of The Friends of the Commission. One desired function would be for the Friends to serve as assistants in carrying out day-to-day functions of the various projects of the commission.

Another viewpoint expressed was that the Friends should play a broader role with the possibility of developing and carrying out projects of their own which may be outside the realm of the Commission.

A committee was formed to come to an agreement and develop a structure for the Friends of the Commission. On that committee will be Commissioners Alicia Ramirez-Brewer, Ray Clayton, Erin Sheffield, Ginny Connell, and interested friends, Lee Anderson and Bonnie Warrington.

VII. Information

Ms. Virginia Aguirre, representative of the Personnel Office, City of Ventura, spoke to the Commission on opportunities to be hired by the City of Ventura Fire Department as a firefighter trainee.

The City of Ventura Personnel Office is conducting a recruitment outreach program to inform women and minorities of the positions open and of the requirements for hiring.

VII. Information (cont'd)

The steps to be followed are:

- . Apply in person during the open filing period. The dates will be publicized.
- . Successfully complete a written exam, basically a civil service exam.
- . Pass a physical agility test. Demonstrations and trials will be scheduled to show you what is required and advise on how best to prepare for the test.
- . Oral interview, conducted by a panel of representatives of the fire department, civil service, community.
- . Background check.

A list of successful applicants will be established from which firefighter trainees will be hired when positions are available.

The salary for a firefighter trainee is \$1730-\$2102/ month.
Promotions are from within the department, by test.

It was suggested that a Commission for Women member be on the oral interview panel.

VIII. New Business

A. By-laws Amendments

The proposed by-laws amendments concerning attendance by commissioners at regular monthly meetings of the commission were approved by a vote of 9 to 3, chair not voting.
The amendments became effective at this meeting.

B. Tri-County Conference Committee

No committee was formed. See item VI. C. for discussion.

C. Minority Women Task Force

Alicia Ramirez-Brewer agreed to serve as the liaison for the California State Commission on the Status of Women's Minority Women Task Force.

IX. Announcements

The date of the February meeting of the commission will be Saturday, February 25th. This is a change from the 3rd Saturday to the 4th Saturday.

The location of the meeting will be determined soon and will be publicized via press releases and mailed meeting notices.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by Martha Baskerville